

We claim:

1 1. A heating element for igniting a pyrotechnical
2 charge, comprising:
3 a base body;
4 a resistance strip on said base body and extending from
5 one side of said base body to an opposite side thereof;
6 respective contact surface formed on said base body at
7 each of said sides and making electrical contact with said
8 resistance strip at each side; and
9 respective conductive elements electrically connecting
10 each of said contact surfaces with an electrical terminal, each
11 of said conductive elements contacting the respective contact
12 surface at a location offset from a location at which the
13 resistance strip contacts said respective contact surface.

1 2. The heating element defined in claim 1 wherein one
2 of said conductive elements contacts the respective contact
3 surface at a location offset from a location at which the
4 resistance strip contacts said respective contact surface at one
5 of said sides in a direction opposite from that at which the
6 other of said conductive elements is offset from a location at
7 which the resistance strip contacts the other of said contact
8 surfaces.

1 3. The heating element defined in claim 2 wherein said
2 resistance strip extends in a meander pattern between said
3 contact strips.

1 4. The heating element defined in claim 2 wherein
2 said resistance strip extends diagonally between said contact
3 strips.